

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2015

Wednesday, February 4, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 354, RELATING TO NURSES.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lee Ann Teshima, Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 354, Relating to Nurses, that would require licensed registered and licensed practical nurses to complete continuing competency requirements prior to the renewal of their nurse license beginning with the 2017 biennium, by completing a "learning activity".

Although the Board has not taken a formal position on House Bill No. 354, it did express support for the intent of the proposed bill from the Hawaii Center for Nursing ("Center") and has continued their discussions with the Center on this measure.

The Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow to more effectively review and clarify the details outlined in House Bill No. 354, along with other proposed legislation regarding amendments to Chapter 457, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Therefore, we request additional time to work with the Center and develop where possible, amendments to House Bill No. 354.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 354.

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
February 5, 2015 9:00 a.m.**

**by  
Laura Reichhardt, MS, RN, Interim Director  
Hawaii State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa**

**HB354 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB354.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

The Hawaii State Center for Nursing (HSCN) supports the Hawaii State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee (CEJAC) determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Additionally, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, the HSCN also supports the legislature's finding that the Hawaii nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Further, the HSCN supports exempting Hawaii licensed registered nurses who:

- are licensed in Hawaii as APRNs who maintain national certification;
- maintain current national certification from a recognized national certifying body in their practice role; or
- are first-time license renewal applicants whose initial license was issued less than twelve months prior to the renewal date.

Therefore, the HSCN respectfully requests that HB354, pass unamended. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



*House Committee on Health*

To: luckieloriel@gmail.com,  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: HB354

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
February 4, 2015 9:00 a.m.  
by  
Loriel Luckie, APRN, MSN, FNP  
HB354 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB354.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

I support the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee (CEJAC) determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Additionally, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, I also support the legislature's finding that the Hawai'i nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Further, I support exempting Hawai'i licensed registered nurses who:

1. are licensed in Hawai'i as APRNs who maintain national certification;
2. maintain current national certification from a recognized national certifying body in their practice role; or
3. are first-time license renewal applicants whose initial license was issued less than twelve months prior to the renewal date.

Therefore, I respectfully request that HB354, pass unamended. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Loriel Luckie, APRN, MSN, FNP  
Kaiser Permanente  
Wailuku Clinic  
80 Mahalani Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
phone: (808) 243-6150  
fax: (808) 243-6145

**NOTICE TO RECIPIENT:** If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are prohibited from sharing, copying, or otherwise using or disclosing its contents. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and



55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

## HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401  
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

**Wednesday – February, 4, 2015 9:00am**  
**Conference Room 329**

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone RN MBA  
Chief Nurse Executive – Hawai'i Pacific Health  
Chief Operating Office – Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: **HB 354, Relating To Nurses**  
**Testimony in Support**

My name is Art Gladstone, Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and Chief Operating Officer at Straub Clinic & Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state.

I am writing in support of HB 354 which would require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period, beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. With the emergence of new health care systems, it is imperative that licensing boards are assured that nurses have the requisite training and competency to practice. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and greatly benefits the patients they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Affiliates of Hawai'i Pacific Health



**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
February 4, 2015 9:00 a.m.  
By Susan Lee BSN, RN, WCC**

**HB354 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB354.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

The supports the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee (CEJAC) determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Additionally, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, the also supports the legislature's finding that the Hawai'i nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Further, the supports exempting Hawai'i licensed registered nurses who:

- are licensed in Hawai'i as APRNs who maintain national certification;

- maintain current national certification from a recognized national certifying body in their practice role; or

- are first-time license renewal applicants whose initial license was issued less than twelve months prior to the renewal date.

Therefore, the respectfully requests that HB354, pass unamended. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing in Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony for SB354  
From Susan Lee, BSN, RN, WCC  
February 4, 2015

Dear Chair Belatti and Vice Chair Creagan,

I have submitted my testimony for the SB354 and I would like to add some additional comments.

I have been a registered nurse for almost thirty-eight years. I love being a nurse and have always believed that learning does not stop with graduation but the starts! I was one of the first nurses on Hawaii to become certified in Home Care in 1998 and was responsible to obtain continuing education to renew my certification. I have since let that certification lapse since my occupation too has changed. In 2004 I became a wound certified nurse and again required to earn continuing education credits independently to recertify. The continuing education was not difficult to obtain to since there is a multitude of **FREE** on-line courses you can take and also through conferences where you get to network with others in your field of nursing, which is just as valuable as the conference.

There are at least 35 states that have a continuing education requirement to renew a nursing license and Hawaii would be proud to be the next one. According to the 2013 Gallup Annual Survey of the most trusted professions, nurses are again number rated on the top based on their honesty and ethical standards. Nurses have been voted the most ethical and honest profession in America in Gallup's annual survey for 14 of the past 15 years. I feel to maintain this high honor it is important to have lifelong learning of nurses through continuing education. Please vote yes for SB 354 ! I am confident that the Board of Nursing will make this work.

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health  
February 04, 2015 9:00 a.m.  
by Deborah Michiko Fried, RN  
University of Hawaii at Hilo RN to BSN student and  
Member of Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses

HB354 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB354.

As a registered nurse licensed in both Hawaii and California, I have worked in both states and in various roles including the intensive care unit and in primary care, as a floor nurse and in management positions. The one, fundamental and critical component for optimal job performance is ongoing education. Healthcare is a dynamic field in which changes occur rapidly and frequently. Moreover, each one of us is responsible for providing care to those who depend upon our use evidence-based practices and development of expertise.

I recently returned to school, working to advance my nursing degree, and thus my professional knowledge and skills. I have always taken advantages of opportunities to attend nursing conferences and attend workshops and training that enable me to continuously improve the quality of care I provide and ensure the safety of my patients, my employer, and my community. I am committed to the concepts promoted by the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee (CEJAC) in Bill HB354.

I respectfully request that HB354 passes unamended. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

creagan3 - Karina

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 10:09 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: wailua@aya.yale.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB354 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM\*

**HB354**

Submitted on: 2/2/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wailua Brandman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



creagan1 - Dannah

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 11:07 AM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: nuyolks@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB354 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM

**HB354**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kathleen Yokouchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In very strong support. As health care systems evolve, so must nurses knowledge in order to ensure continued patient safety. Nursing knowledge which remains status quo works against consumer protection at all levels of care. Nurses must take CE which are substantive and positively impacts individual practice.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health

by

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

School of Nursing & Dental Hygiene

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HB 354 – RELATING TO NURSES**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and members of the House Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this bill, HB 354.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and for the betterment of the patients, they serve. The individual nurse must embrace lifelong learning as an essential key to delivering safe high quality patient care.

The UH Mānoa Nursing supports the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing's Continuing Education Joint Advisory Committee determination that a continuing competency program (self-assessment, implementation of a personal learning plan, CE and subsequent reassessment) is preferable to simple CE program. Furthermore, CEJAC determined that continuing competency requirements may be implemented in the state without fiscal burden to nurses, their employers, or academic institutions. However, the UH Mānoa Nursing also supports the legislature's finding that the Hawai'i nurse continued competency program must be established in phases, beginning with learning activity requirements that support continuing competency in nursing.

Therefore, the UH Mānoa Nursing respectfully requests your support of this measure. We appreciate your continuing support of nursing and healthcare in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Wednesday – February, 4, 2015; 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Brigitte McKale, Chief Nurse Executive

Re: **HB 354, Relating To Nurses**  
**Testimony in Support**

-----

My name is Brigitte McKale, and I am the Chief Nurse Executive for Pali Momi Medical Center. Pali Momi is a not-for-profit hospital located in West O'ahu, and is dedicated to the health and well-being of all Hawai'i residents. With 128 beds and more than 400 physicians on its medical staff, Pali Momi offers a full range of services. The hospital has delivered many medical firsts for the community, including Central and West O'ahu's only interventional cardiac catheterization unit to detect and treat heart disease, a fully integrated minimally invasive surgical suite, CT scan and MRI services and the state's first retina center. Pali Momi is the only medical facility in Hawai'i that uses a team triage approach in its emergency room, where patients are promptly evaluated by an emergency physician. The Pali Momi Women's Center ranks among the top in the nation, and for the past three years, Pali Momi has been in the top five percent nationwide for providing outstanding patient service. The hospital is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, the state's largest health care provider.

I am writing in support of HB 354 which would require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period, beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. With the emergence of new health care systems, it is imperative that licensing boards are assured that nurses have the requisite training and competency to practice. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and greatly benefits the patients they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Wednesday, February 4, 2015

Conference Room #329  
House Committee on Health

To: Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Rep. Richard Creagan, MD, Vice Chair

From: Cheryl Kozai, RN, MBA, BSN  
Past President  
American Organization of Nurse Executives Hawai'i

Re: Testimony in Support  
HB354 — Continuing Competency

The American Organization of Nurse Executives Hawai'i (AONE HI) is a 110 nurse leadership member organization from all facets of health care including but not limited to acute care, long term care, home health care, nursing academia and research.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of HB354**, which requires licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

AONE HI is committed to the professional development of all nurses in Hawai'i, and thus strongly supports legislation which requires continuing competency for all Hawai'i state nurse licensure renewals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB354.

**Wednesday – February, 4, 2015; 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Mavis Nikaido  
VP of Patient Services and Chief Nurse Executive

**Re: HB 354, Relating To Nurses**  
**Testimony in Support**

-----

My name is Mavis Nikaido, and I am the VP of Patient Services and Chief Nurse Executive of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children (Kapi'olani). Kapi'olani Medical Center is the state's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is also a tertiary care, medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific Region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric care, air transport, maternal-fetal medicine and high-risk perinatal care. The not-for-profit hospital offers several community programs and services, such as the Kapi'olani Child Protection Center and the Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Additionally, Kapi'olani's Women's Center is ranked among the top in the nation. Kapi'olani Medical Center is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, the state's largest health care provider.

I am writing in support of HB 354 which would require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period, beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. With the emergence of new health care systems, it is imperative that licensing boards are assured that nurses have the requisite training and competency to practice. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and greatly benefits the patients they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**Wednesday – February, 4, 2015; 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: MaryAnn England  
Chief Nurse Executive

**Re: HB 354, Relating To Nurses**  
**Testimony in Support**

-----

My name is MaryAnn England and I am the Chief Nurse Executive of Wilcox Memorial Hospital (Wilcox). Wilcox is a nonprofit hospital and the primary hospital serving the island of Kauai. It has become a cutting-edge hospital serving the medical needs of residents and visitors. As a state-of-the-art Level III Trauma Center, Wilcox was recently ranked among the top 15% in the Nation for Outstanding Patient Experience in 2013. With 193 physicians on staff, Wilcox offers island residents and visitors expert diagnosis and treatment for more than 20 specialties. It is a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a full suite of services including emergency, OB/GYN, pediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, nephrology, cosmetic surgery, internal medicine and family practice.

I am writing in support of HB 354 which would require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period, beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. With the emergence of new health care systems, it is imperative that licensing boards are assured that nurses have the requisite training and competency to practice. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and greatly benefits the patients they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**Wednesday – February, 4, 2015; 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

From: Patty Boeckmann  
Chief Nurse Executive

**Re: HB 354, Relating To Nurses**  
**Testimony in Support**

---

My name Patty Boeckmann and I am the Chief Nurse Executive at Straub Clinic & Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state.

I am writing in support of HB 354 which would require licensed registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to submit evidence of continuing competency at each renewal period, beginning with the July 1, 2017 licensing biennium.

Addressing the needs and interests of the people of Hawai'i includes ensuring that quality health care is easily accessible to consumers throughout the State. Nurses are critical to the successful implementation of health care reform. With the emergence of new health care systems, it is imperative that licensing boards are assured that nurses have the requisite training and competency to practice. Continuing education plays a significant role in nursing professionals' ongoing development and greatly benefits the patients they serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



creagan1 - Dannah

---

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 10:50 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: ramelbj@hawaii.edu  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB354 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM\*

**HB354**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jovelyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 9:46 PM  
To: HLTtestimony  
Cc: teresa.parsons@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB354 on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM

**HB354**

Submitted on: 2/3/2015

Testimony for HLT on Feb 4, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Honorable Health Committee Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Creagan, and Health Committee members, Please accept this testimony for the House Health Committee hearing on HB 354. I am a Registered Nurse and APRN licensed in the State of Hawai'i since the mid 1990's. I stand in strong support of HB 354 which requires all non-exempt licensed Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses to complete continuing competency requirements prior to the submission of an application for license renewal, restoration, or restatement, beginning on the licensing biennium, July 1, 2017. In the U.S., a significant majority of States require evidence of continuing education for RNs and LPNs. The vast majority of health care is delivered by nurses, including 24/7 care in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and skilled nursing home care. Nurses provide a preponderance of health care in the State's Comprehensive Community Health Centers and ambulatory care clinics. It is reasonable and ethical to expect nurses to maintain a level of competence with current nursing and medical care advances. The broad categories listed in this Bill provides ample opportunities to achieve the minimum 30 contact hours required by this legislation. I already am required to submit a targeted education plan to maintain my Nurse Practitioner certification which meets the intent of HB 354. This will not create a burden to meet the requirements of this legislation for myself or a preponderance of nurses in Hawai'i. In addressing the patient safety needs of the people of Hawai'i, it is imperative we move forward on this Bill. I urge you to support the changes to this important piece of legislation. Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB 354.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)